

THIRD DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATION BILL, 1919

HEARINGS

BEFORE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

CONSISTING OF

MESSRS. SWAGAR SHERLEY (CHAIRMAN), JOHN J. EAGAN,
THOMAS UPTON SISSON, JOSEPH G. CANNON,
AND WILLIAM S. VARE

IN CHARGE OF

DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR
1919 AND PRIOR FISCAL YEARS

Commander KIBBEE. That is it exactly. We are not only dispensing with their services, but the deterioration in the Naval Academy is marked due to the economies now exercised.

Mr. Sisson. Was any of that \$75,000 as to salaries retroactive?

Commander KIBBEE. None of that was retroactive.

Mr. Sisson. At what time did that go into effect?

Commander KIBBEE. It went into effect on the first of November, 1918.

Mr. Sisson. And it did not give any employee any increase prior to that time?

Commander KIBBEE. No, sir. It all applied after the signing of the order from the Navy Department.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1919.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

STATEMENTS OF MR. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, SECRETARY,
AND MR. W. DE C. RAVENEL, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TO THE SECRETARY IN CHARGE OF THE NATIONAL
MUSEUM.

FOR REPAIRS, HEATING, ETC., TEMPORARY STRUCTURE FOR EX-
HIBITION OF AIRCRAFT, ETC.

Mr. Sisson. Your item is—

To enable the regents of the Smithsonian Institution to heat and to fit up for an exhibition of the aircraft and accessories produced by this Government since the declaration of war, the temporary metal structure erected in the Smithsonian grounds by the War Department under the authority of the act approved June 9, 1917, fiscal year 1920, \$14,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to transfer the custody and control of the said building to the regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. RAVENEL. This \$14,000 is required to supply the necessary radiators, piping, valves, connections, etc., for heating this building, and in order to retain the heat we have to weatherproof the side walls and ceilings at a cost of \$6,000; we also have to repair and put the floors in order, which are wooden floors, trucks having been driving over them for a year or two; to repair the roof and do a little painting.

Mr. Sisson. What will the repairs to the floors cost?

Mr. RAVENEL. About \$1,000 and the heating apparatus \$4,400.

Mr. Sisson. What about the roof?

Mr. RAVENEL. The roof \$2,000, painting \$600, weather proofing \$6,000, making a total of \$14,000.

Mr. Sisson. That building is worth about how much?

Mr. RAVENEL. I do not know the exact cost.

Mr. Sisson. I wish you would supply for the record what the building did cost.

Mr. RAVENEL. Between \$18,000 and \$20,000.

Mr. Sisson. What have you in the building now?

Mr. RAVENEL. The building is now occupied by the Aviation Corps of the War Department.

Mr. Sisson. What have you in the building for purposes of exhibition?

Mr. RAVENEL. We have nothing in the building at the present time.

Mr. Sisson. What do you expect to put in the building?

Mr. RAVENEL. Military Aeronautics has agreed to furnish us with an example of all of the modern aircrafts that have been made since the United States went into the war, including examples of all of the engines and other apparatus, such as guns, bombs, cameras, oxygen apparatus for going up to great altitudes, etc. This is the only building in Washington, I believe, which would be suitable for a purpose of this character. It is simply a shell of steel, which is ideal for suspending the flying machines.

Mr. Sisson. Do they have the machines now provided with hangars?

Mr. RAVENEL. These machines are to be shipped to us from the various fields and factories.

Mr. Sisson. But is the building so arranged that you could put up the entire machine?

Mr. RAVENEL. The machine will be shown exactly as if it were in flight.

Mr. Sisson. You propose to show in this building American flying machines at the beginning of the war?

Mr. RAVENEL. No, sir; we have the historical collection in the older National Museum building, just across the road. These for this building are modern machines. This is the time for us to bring them together, with all of the apparatus, all of the equipment, and the men available who are capable of assisting us in putting them up. There is no other building in the city that is available for this purpose. At a cost of \$14,000 that building can be put in such shape as to last for 15 years, and the rental that you would pay for such a building would be far in excess —

Mr. Sisson (interposing). Is that as long as that building will last?

Mr. RAVENEL. I would say 15 years.

Mr. Sisson. You propose to spend \$14,000 on this building, which is now a comparatively new building?

Mr. RAVENEL. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sisson. In the event Congress should decide to continue this exhibit in that building, how long could you make it available and useful for this purpose?

Mr. WALCOTT. Almost indefinitely; there is no question about that. Those machines are available and they are the best types which our country has developed: military aeronautics is ready and wants to send them to us, and if they do not come, with the breaking up of these various stations and depots they will disappear, so that there is the opportunity to get the whole development of our aircraft to date. It will bring there the bombing types, the fighting types, the fast-machine types, and all the complicated apparatus which has been developed, both in this country and in Europe.

Mr. Sisson. Will you have on exhibition in this building explosive bombs as well as gas bombs, gas masks, machine controls, stabilizers, and everything like that?

Mr. WALCOTT. Everything will be there. The idea is to make it an absolutely complete exhibition.

Mr. Sisson. You will have on exhibition the various types of planes that have been developed by the war and a comparison of the machines, so that the progress may be seen by looking at them?

Mr. WALCOTT. The whole aircraft development: yes.

Mr. Sisson. In the event we do not use this building for this purpose when it is abandoned by the War Department, the building, of course, would go to rack and ruin: it would soon be removed, and the amount of money invested in the building would be a complete loss?

Mr. WALCOTT. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sisson. But since the Government has the building—which represents, perhaps, an investment of less than \$20,000 on the part of the Army—you could use that building economically for this purpose, and if you did not use it now as a place in which to put these machines, I believe you say they will be dissipated because the Army would have no place and no occasion to take care of them, and that is your especial reason in urging this particular item?

Mr. WALCOTT. Yes, sir: I understand that the plant at Dayton, Ohio, will be broken up the 1st of next July, and most of these machines are there to-day.

Mr. Sisson. These machines will not cost you anything?

Mr. WALCOTT. They will cost nothing, because they are already paid for.

Mr. Sisson. These machines will be supplied to you by the Army and the Navy?

Mr. WALCOTT. Yes, sir.

Mr. Sisson. You will have the hydroplanes, as well as the others, will you?

Mr. WALCOTT. We expect to have all of the types. There is one feature about it I would like to mention. We are talking about the development of civil aeronautics, and we hope to do it. There will be assembled here the different types of machines and all the paraphernalia that goes with them, so that any manufacturer, or any inventor, or anyone interested, can come there and study the state of the art up to date, and we hope to keep it up to date, and it will be the only place in America where it will be.

Mr. Sisson. In other words, it is your purpose to keep up with the state of the art from year to year as improvements are made?

Mr. WALCOTT. Yes, sir.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1919.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

STATEMENT OF MR. ALBERT F. POTTER, ASSOCIATE FORESTER, ACCOMPANIED BY MR. A. O. WAHA.

FOREST SERVICE.

FOR GENERAL EXPENSES.

Mr. Sisson. "For general expenses of the Forest Service, including the same objects specified under this head in the Agricultural appropriation act for the fiscal year 1919, \$221,300." You had an appropriation for this year of \$3,247,935?

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